

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**JORGE ANDARA-PONCE,**

**Petitioner**

**v.**

**CHAD WOLF, Acting Director of USICE,  
et al.,**

**Respondents**

**CASE NO. 1:20-CV-0765 AWI JDP**

**ORDER STAYING MATTER AND  
ORDER FOR SERVICE ON CLASS  
COUNSEL IN THE RIVAS MATTER**

On June 2, 2020, Petitioner filed this 28 U.S.C. § 2241 habeas corpus petition, as well as a motion for a temporary restraining order. Petitioner is proceeding pro se. Petitioner is facing deportation to Honduras because he was convicted of murder under Cal. Pen. Code § 187(a). Petitioner is currently detained as part of the deportation process in the Mesa Verde detention facility in Bakersfield, California.

In his petition, Petitioner states that he is being detained in the Mesa Verde facility in conditions that expose him to a heightened risk of contracting COVID 19. Petitioner states that his health history place him at above-average risk of illness and death from COVID 19. Through his petition and motion for temporary restraining order, Petitioner seeks his release from the Mesa Verde facility due to the threat posed by COVID 19.

The Northern District of California has entered a provisional class certification order and temporary restraining order in *Rivas, et al v. Jennings, et al.*, Northern Dist. of Cal. Case No. 20-cv-2731 VC. The class covers all ICE Detainees at the Mesa Verde facility, which means that

Petitioner is part of the *Rivas* class. Further, the temporary restraining order requires Respondent to provide the Northern District and class counsel with information and records regarding each detainee at the Mesa Verde facility, including records relating to any health vulnerabilities, so that the Northern District can consider bail applications from class members. See Rivas v. Jennings, 2020 WL 2059848 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 29, 2020). In other words, the *Rivas* order provides for individual release determinations for each person currently housed at Mesa Verde, like Petitioner.

Given the *Rivas* class order and temporary restraining order, there is no reason to believe that Petitioner's situation will not be individually and timely assessed to determine if release is necessary in light of the threat posed by COVID 19, the current conditions of Mesa Verde, and Petitioner's individual health profile. Additionally, no information has been provided to the Court that indicates there are any cases of COVID 19 at the Mesa Verde facility. Under these circumstances, the Court does not find that it is necessary to issue any further orders relating to Petitioner's motion at this time. Cf. Pride v. Correa, 719 F.3d 1130, 1133 (9th Cir. 2013) (acknowledging that a court may dismiss an individual complaint because the "complainant is a member in a class action seeking the same relief."); McNeil v. Guthrie, 945 F.2d 1163, 1165 (10th Cir. 1991) ("Individual suits for injunctive relief and equitable relief from alleged unconstitutional prison conditions cannot be brought where there is an existing class action."); Crawford v. Bell, 599 F.2d 890, 892-93 (9th Cir. 1979) ("A court may choose not to exercise its jurisdiction when another court having jurisdiction over the same matter has entertained it and can achieve the same result."). Instead, the Court will stay this matter in light of the proceedings in *Rivas*. See Melnichuk v. Wolf, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85277, \*3-\*4 Calderon v. Barr, Eastern Dist. of Cal. Case No. 2:20-cv-891 KJM GGH at Doc. No. 9 (recommending staying the matter pending resolution of *Rivas*); Zambrano v. Wolf, Eastern District of Cal. Case No. 1:20-cv-595 DAD JLT Doc. No. 6 (granting stipulation to stay matter until 5 days after resolution of the petitioner's individual case as part of the *Rivas* individualized determination of release suitability). Once the Northern District has determined whether Petitioner will be released, Petitioner will be directed to inform the Court of the decision. Petitioner may then make any further filings as may be necessary, including a possible request to dismiss this petition.

1 Additionally, the Court notes that Petitioner filed this matter *pro se*, even though the *Rivas*  
2 class has class counsel. Because Petitioner is a class member, and in order to ensure that his  
3 situation is particularly brought to the attention of class counsel, the Court will order that a copy of  
4 this order be sent to class counsel.

5 **ORDER**

6 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 7 1. This matter is STAYED pending further action relating to Petitioner by the Northern  
8 District of California in the *Rivas, et al v. Jennings, et al.*, Norther Dist. of Cal. Case No.  
9 20-cv-2731 VC matter;
- 10 2. No later than five (5) business days of a final release determination concerning Petitioner  
11 in the *Rivas* matter, Petitioner shall inform the Court of the determination in *Rivas* and  
12 make any further filings or requests as may be appropriate; and
- 13 3. The Clerk shall electronically serve a copy of this order, as well as a copy of Petitioner's  
14 petition (Doc. No. 1) and Petitioner's motion for a temporary restraining order (Doc. No.  
15 3) on the following attorneys, who are counsel of record for the petitioners in the *Rivas*  
16 matter:
- 17 a. Martin S. Schenker of Cooley LLP at mschenker@cooley.com  
18 b. Amalia Wille of Lakin & Willie LLP at amalia@lakinwillie.com  
19 c. Angelica Salceda of the ACLU of Northern Cal. at asalceda@aclunc.org  
20 d. Bree An Bernwanger of Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights, San Francisco at  
21 bbernwanger@lccrsf.org  
22 e. Francisco Ugarte of the San Francisco Public Defender's Office at  
23 Francisco.ugarte@sfgov.org

24  
25 IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 Dated: June 3, 2020

  
27 SENIOR DISTRICT JUDGE  
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